

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SATURDAY'S FIESTAS PATRIAS CANCELLED FOR OLD TOWN SAN DIEGO

SAN DIEGO – California State Parks and the California Arts Council today announced the cancellation of the Fiestas Patrias celebration of Mexican Independence Day that had been scheduled for this Saturday in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park.

The decision was reached by State Parks Director Rusty Areias and California Arts Council Director Barry Hessenius. Their agencies were joint sponsors of the San Diego celebration, which is part of an "Arts in the Parks" series of events being held at state parks.

"Due to the terrible events on the East Coast this week, and out of respect for the victims and their families, we felt it was inappropriate to go ahead with this celebration," said Areias.

In a statement earlier in the week, Mexico President Vicente Fox had asked that Mexican Independence Day celebrations be suspended as an expression of grief for the victims of Tuesday's attack on the United States.

Hessenius said, "The events on the East Coast were about destruction. The arts are about creation. We remain committed to our partnership with State Parks to provide future arts and cultural events for the people of California."

The Fiestas Patrias had been scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. this Saturday, Sept. 15, in Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. A number of performances were included on the program.

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